

Message Text

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM TOM RESTON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING

1. THE BRIEFING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14 OPENED WITH A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF THE ARREST OF AN AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN IN MOSCOW AND VARIOUS ALLEGATIONS OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES. THE DISCUSSION WAS PRIMARILY FACTUAL.

2. NEXT ON THE AGENDA WAS THE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM SOUTH LEBANON AND THE SPOKESMAN MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"I SAW SOME STORIES THIS MORNING THAT PERHAPS ISRAEL WAS TURNING OVER SOME AREAS THAT IT EVACUATED TO CHRISTIAN MILITIA FORCES.

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"LET ME SAY THAT WE REGARD IT AS A GREAT OVER-SIMPLIFICATION TO SAY THAT THIS HAPPENED AND TO IMPLY THAT UNIFIL WILL NOT BE CARRYING OUT ITS MANDATE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. UNITS OF THE UNITED NATIONS' FORCES IN LEBANON HAVE ALREADY MOVED INTO KEY SPOTS IN THE AREA FROM WHICH THE ISRAELIS JUST WITHDREW.

"THE PRESENCE IN THE AREA OF CHRISTIAN MILITIAS NEEDS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, BUT WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE UNITED NATIONS WILL BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THIS SITUATION SATISFACTORILY. CONSULTATIONS ARE NOW TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON ON WAYS TO HELP RE-ESTABLISH THE AUTHORITY OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN LEBANON, WHICH IS A PRIME OBJECTIVE OF THE U.N. PEACEKEEPING MISSION. AND WE CONSIDER IT BEST NOT TO COMMENT ANY FURTHER ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS AT THIS TIME. "

3. THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE ON THE ROLE OF UNIFIL IN SOUTHERN LEBANON:

"Q. TOM, YOU SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE UNIFIL FULFILLS ITS TASK IN A VERY SATISFACTORY WAY. THE DAYAN NOTE TO WALDHEIM FROM YESTERDAY SAYS JUST THE OPPOSITE. IS THERE A WAY THAT THIS CONTRADICTION COULD BE SETTLED?

"A. WELL, LET ME TRY. FIRST OF ALL, LET ME SAY THAT WE BELIEVE UNIFIL HAS BEEN DOING A GOOD JOB OF CONTROLLING THIS AREA.

"Q. BUT DAYAN SAID THEY DIDN'T.

"A. CAN I FINISH, IF YOU'LL ALLOW ME? WE BELIEVE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNIFIL HAS BEEN DOING A GOOD JOB OF CONTROLLING THIS AREA. HOWEVER, THE NATURE OF THE TERRAIN AND THE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON ARE SUCH THAT OCCASIONAL INFILTRATION INTO THE AREA CONTROLLED BY UNIFIL CANNOT BE ELIMINATED TOTALLY. IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO ASK THE U.N. ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS, AND WE HAVE NOTHING FURTHER FOR YOU ON THIS MATTER."

4. WITH REGARD TO A PURPORTED SPY SWAP OF MR. LUNT, WHO IS IN PRISON IN CUBA, AND A PUERTO RICAN TERRORIST IN PRISON IN THE UNITED STATES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID:

"YES, I DO HAVE SOMETHING ON THAT. WE HAVE HAD NO DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CUBANS ABOUT THIS. THERE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CONGRESSMAN BENJAMIN GILMAN OF NEW YORK AND HERR WOLFGANG WOGEL, THE EAST GERMAN LAWYER. CONG. GILMAN, WHO HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN SUCH MATTERS IN THE PAST, HAS, OF COURSE, KEPT US INFORMED ABOUT HIS CONVERSATIONS. WE WOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, PRESS REPORTS IN THIS MORNING'S NEWSPAPERS WHICH INDICATE THAT PREMIER CASTRO CASTS SOME DOUBT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH AN EXCHANGE." CHRISTOPHER

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